

(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 1 231 601 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
19.01.2005 Bulletin 2005/03

(51) Int Cl. 7: **G11B 7/09**

(43) Date of publication A2:
14.08.2002 Bulletin 2002/33

(21) Application number: **02250857.6**

(22) Date of filing: **07.02.2002**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: **09.02.2001 JP 2001033963**

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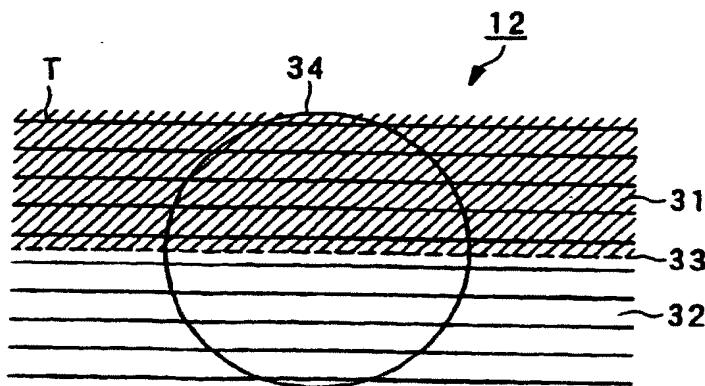
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(54) Information recording apparatus

(57) An information recording apparatus capable of detecting an accurate tracking error even if a reflectance or a transmittance of respective information recording layers varies when information is recorded onto a multilayer optical information recording medium having a plurality of information recording layers, wherein the apparatus comprises a detecting device for detecting a position of a boundary portion (33) between a recorded ar-

ea (31) where the information has already been recorded and an unrecorded area (32) in the information recording layer; an inhibiting device for inhibiting recording the information onto an area in one information recording layer in a case where the boundary portion in an information recording layer may affect a tracking servo for recording the information onto said one information recording layer.

FIG. 3B





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 25 0857

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Hague</td> <td>12 November 2004</td> <td>Skaropoulos, N</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	The Hague	12 November 2004	Skaropoulos, N
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner							
The Hague	12 November 2004	Skaropoulos, N							
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons S : member of the same patent family, corresponding document							
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document									



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 02 25 0857

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1,2

Apparatus for recording information on a multiply layered optical disk characterized in that it contains device for inhibiting recording on areas of an information layer where the boundary portion of any of the other recording layers may affect the recording operation.

2. claims: 3-5

Apparatus for recording information on a multiply layered optical disk characterized in that it contains device for controlling the order by which the information layers are recorded.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 25 0857

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82